GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4087
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Expansion of Airports
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the 125 airports that are being managed by the Airports Authority of India, only 69 airports receive commercial flights, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there is any proposal in the near future to increase the number of airports to receive commercial flights, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any futuristic proposal to increase the capacity of the present airports; and

(d) if so, whether Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneshwar is also a part of such plan and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a): Airports Authority of India (AAI) owns & manages 126 airports including 26 civil enclaves at defence airfields out of which 74 airports including 4 Joint Venture airports receive commercial flights (including RCS flights). The flight operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) issued by the Government. However, it is upto the airline operators to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand, commercial viability etc.;
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(b): Government of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) in October, 2016 with the objective to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity to currently underserved and unserved airports. AAI, the implementing agency of RCS-UDAN has awarded 128 routes connecting 43 unserved and under-served airports to 5 selected airlines for commencing operations under RCS-UDAN in the 1st round of bidding. RCS flights from seven RCS airports namely Shimla, Nanded, Kadapa, Kandla, Porbandar, Gwalior and Bhatinda have already commenced. ;
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(c) & (d): Expansion/Upgradation/Capacity enhancement of airports is a continuous process which is undertaken by AAI from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, traffic demand, technical feasibility etc. Presently passenger handling capacity of the Airports in India is 282 Million Passenger Per Annum (MPPA) while Passenger Traffic handled during the year 2016-17 is 264.96 MPPA. In order to implement the RCS-UDAN scheme, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a budgetary provision of Rs. 4500 crores for revival of un-served/underserved airports/airstrips in the country. The revival of airstrips/airports is ""demand driven"", depending upon firm commitment from airline operators as well as from the State Government for providing various concessions. Work for construction of ATC Tower cum Technical Block at Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneshwar has already been initiated by AAI.